

HONGKONG. SATURDAY. JULY 14TH, 1868.

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use, the free use of the limbs, the
little to choose between the Western
the Eastern styles." But the ball-costume
the Occident is an abuse; it cannot be
be put forward as an inevitable defect;
on the whole, the dress of the European
American lady unquestionably offers less
to the eye than the dress of the
Japanese." But the ball-costume of the
Occident is not an abuse, neither is it gross
indecent. It is worn by women of good
modesty, and is admired by pure men.
men. Decency, or perhaps it would be
correct to say modesty, is simply a matter of
convention. The woman of the South
is not a bit less modest than the woman
by the march of civilization, she is
pelled to clothe herself. The writers of
letter which we reproduce below speak of
lady who went to reside in Japan and
"had never dreamed that her own old
dress was immodest until she compared
with the dress of Japanese ladies around her
who were so much more modest than
the sleek sitting of the upper part of the
thereby emphasizing her sex, was more
her conspicuous." And the Japanese is
whose dress made the American lady
that her own was 'immodest, would be
uncovered with persons of the opposite
sex, and the thought would not occur
to him to be immodest. To set up a
eternal and invariable standard of mo-
The indestructible dividing line between
modesty and immodesty is wholly depen-
on the convention recognised by the com-
munity amongst whom the individual has
to be, and, in the matter of dress, it
range from a string of beads to the
of the East. The concealing nature of
fact. But it is time that we allow
ladies to speak for themselves. The fol-
lowing is the letter addressed through the
Mail to the women of Japan:-

TO JAPANESE WOMEN WHO ARE ADOP-
TING FOREIGN DRESS.

Japan is so rapidly taking rank
with the nations of the so-called civiliza-
tion that it is not strange that
foreign innovations have at last reached you
and her sisters. Nor is it strange that
the women of nearly all civilized nations
have it would add to a feeling of sister-
ship the women of these nations should so
mind.

Now, if the women of Japan are fully
willing to adopt foreign dress, it will be
least to urge them not to do so, but before
adopt it in its entirety, they should know
the value of the things they are giving
and think that there is great need of im-
provement in certain particulars. Some who
resided for years in Japan, and compared
the dress of the Japanese, particularly
the simplicity of an entire lack of
the ground of modesty, economy, and health.

Some critics may say that Japanese dress

